

**Connecticut Public Health Committee,**

**I'm writing you as a wholesale distributor, National Convenience Distributors, that supplies hundreds of retail locations in Connecticut with food, sundries, and tobacco products. I am disappointed to hear that CT is considering SB 367, a bill that would ban all flavored vapor products (other than tobacco flavor) and imposing a nicotine cap of 35mg/ml, which would eliminate the majority of closed system/cartridge vapor products. I urge you to oppose this bill.**

**A flavor ban like the one you have proposed, harms retailers and wholesalers alike, and creates unintended consequences like illegal smuggling. The COVID-19 pandemic has put an enormous burden on our business and, frankly, many of our customers have closed their doors — now is not the time to put an additional strain on an already ravaged business community.**

**I come to you with a unique perspective as my company, National Convenience Distributors, also services thousands of locations in Massachusetts. Banning flavored vapor products did not work in Massachusetts and it will not work in Connecticut. In the 18 months following the flavor ban in MA that went into effect on 6/1/2020, we saw sales move from Massachusetts to NH, RI, NY, and CT.**

**New Hampshire residents aren't smoking twice as many flavored vapor products but the state has seen an enormous increase in sales of these products as a result of the Massachusetts' ban. The flavor ban has also created an illegal black market — I have seen photos and videos from my customers with individuals selling flavored vape in their parking lots.**

**Lastly, the FDA is using a science-based approach to evaluate each product via the premarket tobacco application (PMTA) and modified risk tobacco product (MRTP) application processes. The FDA has allocated millions of dollars of resources to properly evaluate each individual product. Please let the FDA do their regulatory job.**

**I urge you not to move forward with this bill and allow the FDA to do their job.**

**Please reach out with any questions you might have, in particular about the shifts in sales in the New England region since Massachusetts' ban became effective.**

**Thank you for your consideration.**

**Sincerely,**

**Kyle Feldman**

**National Convenience Distributors**